



COUNTY OF MERCER
MERCER COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
240 WEST STATE STREET
P.O. BOX 8068
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08650-0068
PHONE: (609) 989-6465
FAX: (609) 989-1111



PAULA SOLLAMI COVELLO
Mercer County Clerk

WALKER M. WORTHY, JR.
Deputy County Clerk

Dear 2016 School Board Candidate,

In an effort to ensure that you have obtained all of the necessary forms to successfully file your petitions, please review the items on the check list below.

If you have any questions concerning the election please feel free to contact our Election Office at (609) 989-6494 and we will be happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Paula Sollami Covello

Paula Sollami Covello
Mercer County Clerk

PETITION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Petition - (10) Ten Signatures Required / Candidate Phone # and Email Required
- ☐ School District's Open Seats and Terms
- ☐ School Board Candidacy & Election Dates

REMINDER

PETITIONS MUST BE FILED AT THE MERCER COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
BY JULY 25, 2016, BEFORE 4:00 PM
PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS -
240 WEST STATE STREET
7TH FLOOR, ELECTION OFFICE
TRENTON, NJ 08608

NOMINATING PETITION FOR ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION HELD IN NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION

To: Paula Sollami Covello, Mercer County Clerk

A. NOMINATING STATEMENT:

We, the undersigned, are qualified voters of _____ School district of (Municipality) _____, in Mercer County, New Jersey. We hereby endorse (Name of Candidate) _____, whose address is (Street and Number, Post Office) _____, as a candidate for membership on the Board of Education representing (Name of Municipality) _____, for the (Full or Unexpired) _____ term of (Number of Years) _____ years, and we hereby request that the name of said candidate be printed on the official ballot to be used at the ensuing election for the Board of Education to be held November _____, 20____.

B. SIGNATORIES:

(At least ten signatures, one of which may be the candidate's, are required to nominate a candidate.) We, the undersigned petitioners, hereby certify that the said (Name of Candidate) _____ is legally qualified under the laws of the State to be elected a member of the _____ Board of Education.

PRINTED NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____

C. VERIFICATION

(Name of the Petitioner Swearing/Affirming) _____ being duly sworn or affirmed according to the law on his/her oath deposes and says: That the **Petitioner** is an eligible voter and the above petition is signed by each of the signers thereof in his/her own and writing; that the said signers are, to deponent's best knowledge and belief, legally qualified to vote at the school district election at which the candidate shall be voted for, and that the said petition is prepared and filed in absolute good faith for the sole purpose of endorsing the candidate therein named and placing the candidate's name on the official ballot in order to secure his/her election as a member of the Board of Education.

SWORN OR AFFIRMED AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS

_____ DAY OF _____, 20____

SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER

NOTARY

IMPORTANT NOTE: NOMINATING PETITION CONTINUED ON SECOND PAGE

D. NOTICE

All candidates are required by law to comply with the provisions of "The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act," *N.J.S.A. 19:44A-1 et seq.* For further information, please call the Election Law Enforcement Commission, (609) 292-8700.

E. CANDIDATE'S ACCEPTANCE/OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

_____, the candidate for membership on the Board of Education named in the foregoing petition, does hereby certify that he/she is qualified to be a member of the _____ Board of Education; that he/she consents to stand as a candidate for election and, if elected, agrees to accept and qualify into that office. He/she further affirms and declares he/she is not disqualified as a voter pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:4-1*.

I further do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to the Governments established in the United States and in this State, under the authority of the people. So help me God*.

SWORN OR AFFIRMED AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS

_____ DAY OF _____, 20____

SIGNATURE

PRINTED NAME OF CANDIDATE

NOTARY

CANDIDATE PHONE NUMBER / EMAIL ADDRESS

* No individual is required to swear that part of an oath which states "So help me God" and may instead state "I do solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm."

QUALIFICATIONS

Candidates filing a nominating petition for board membership must meet the following qualifications:

- He/She is a citizen of the United States of America.
- He/She must be at least 18 (eighteen) years of age to qualify for office.
- He/She must be able to read and write.
- He/She has been a resident of the municipality from which he/she is to be elected for at least one year preceding the date of the election.
- He/She is not disqualified as a voter pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 19:4-1*.
- He/She is not disqualified from membership for the conviction of crimes pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1*.**
- He/She is a registered voter in the district.

**Within 30 days of election or appointment to the board, a member must undergo a criminal history background investigation through the New Jersey Department of Education.

No board of education member shall be directly or indirectly involved in any contract with, or claim against, the board.

Completed nominating petitions shall be filed with:

The Mercer County Clerk on or before 4:00 p.m. July 25, 2016.
The Mercer County Clerk's Election Office is located at 240 W. State St., 7th Floor, Trenton, NJ 08608
For questions, please call the Election Office at (609) 989-6494.

Received by _____
MERCER COUNTY CLERK/DESIGNEE

At: _____
TIME **DATE**

01/16

NOVEMBER SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION PETITION PACKET

Included in this packet:

- **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**
- **GETTING ELECTED TO THE SCHOOL BOARD**
- **CANDIDACY DATES**
- **NOMINATING PETITION**
- **REPORTING OF EXPENDITURES**

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

To become a member of a local board of education in New Jersey, you must –

1. Be able to read and write.
2. Hold U.S. citizenship and one year's residency in the school district.
3. Be registered to vote in the district before filing the nominating petition.
4. Have no interest in any contract with, or claim against, the board.
5. Not hold office as mayor or member of the municipal governing body.
6. Not simultaneously hold two elective offices.
7. Not be disqualified from membership for the conviction of certain crimes. (Within 30 days of election or appointment to the board, a member must undergo a criminal history background investigation through the state Department of Education.)

GETTING ELECTED TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

School districts that elect board of education members are called "Type II" districts". District voters elect school board members for terms of three years. To be included on the ballot, you must:

- Complete a nominating petition that includes the signatures of at least 10 qualified voters living within the district (one of which may be your own). A petition form is included in this kit. The petition must be submitted to the Mercer County Clerk by the last Monday in July.

- Adhere to all state requirements to file campaign-expense reports with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC).

CANDIDACY DATES

July 25, 2016	4:00 pm. Deadline for candidates to file nominating petitions with the Mercer County Clerk.
Aug. 15, 2016	Drawing for Ballot position at the office of the Mercer County Clerk – 3:00 p.m.
Sept. 9, 2016	Last day for a candidate to withdraw from the election. A signed, written notice must be filed with the Mercer County Clerk.
Nov. 8, 2016	General Election (including school board elections). Note: Board members must undergo criminal history checks through the New Jersey Department of Education within 30 days of election or appointment.

NOMINATING PETITIONS

Each candidate for election, including incumbents, must be nominated directly by petition, signed by at least ten people (one of whom may be the candidate). Each nominating petition, addressed to the Mercer County Clerk, must state the following:

- That the signers are qualified voters in the school district
- The name, residence and post office address of the candidate and the office for which the candidate is endorsed
- That the signers endorse the candidate and ask that his or her name be printed on the ballot
- That the candidate is legally qualified to be a school board member

The nomination petition also contains a notice advising candidates that they are required to comply with the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act.

The nominating petition includes a section where one of the signers makes a sworn statement verifying that the petition is prepared in good faith, signed by each of the signers in his or her own handwriting, and that he or she believes that the signers are duly qualified voters in the school district. The candidate, if he or she is one of the signers of the petition, may also make the verification.

The nominating petition also includes a section where the candidate must include a signed statement certifying that he or she is qualified to be a school board member, consents to be a candidate, will accept the office if elected, and is not disqualified as a voter.

Nominating petitions must be filed with the Mercer County Clerk on or before 4 p.m., Monday, July 25, 2016.

REPORTING OF EXPENDITURES

The New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act requires all school board candidates who receive any contribution (including their own funds), regardless of the amount, to file a Certificate of Organization and Designation of Campaign Treasurer and Depository form with the Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC). Candidates may be required to complete other ELEC forms.

ELEC is the regulatory agency regarding campaign contributions. Board candidates may contact ELEC or go online to obtain the Compliance Manual for Candidates, which provides full instructions and reporting forms. Questions and requests for information should be directed to ELEC at (609) 292-8700, or visit its website at www.elec.state.nj.us.

2016 School Board Election – open seats

EAST WINDSOR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

East Windsor Township – to be advised

Hightstown Borough – to be advised

EWING TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

to be advised

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

to be advised

HOPEWELL VALLEY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Hopewell Borough – to be advised

Hopewell Township – to be advised

Pennington Borough – to be advised

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

to be advised

PRINCETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

to be advised

ROBBINSVILLE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

to be advised

WEST WINDSOR-PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

West Windsor Township – to be advised

Plainsboro Township – to be advised (Middlesex County)